

# ENERGY & CLIMATE COMMITTEE

## Meeting Summary

Monday, May 19, 2014

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council  
1926 Victoria Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901

The committee is responsible for providing oversight on the Solar Ready II Grant project. The purpose of the grant is to promote solar best management practices that will allow more streamlined and standardized solar permitting regulations to be implemented. The committee will assist with engaging stakeholders in regional events as it pertains to Solar Ready II.

### **Members/ Conference Call**

Melissa Dickens, SWFWMD  
Al Reynolds, Stantec  
Chad Laurent, Meister Consulting Group

### **Staff**

Jennifer Pellechio, SWFRPC  
Rebekah Harp, SWFRPC

### **Item #1 – Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m.

### **Item #2 – Approval of Minutes: February 20, 2014**

Ms. Harp explained that the February meeting minutes were currently being reviewed and would be available for approval at the next meeting, along with the minutes from the March meeting.

### **Item #3 – SM3 Request: Jurisdiction Scoring Summary Questionnaire**

Ms. Harp explained that the SWFRPC currently has SM3 data for 7 out of the 21 jurisdictions. She requested assistance from the committee members to obtain the survey data within their jurisdictions.

Ms. Dickens requested that an email be sent to her with the list of names who have been contacted.

Ms. Pellechio agreed to send an email with that information.

### **Item #4 – Solar Best Management Practices Summary – Meister**

Mr. Laurent of Meister Consulting Group discussed in detail the top three Best Management Practices voted on by the region. The top three identified were: 1.) Develop Solar Ready Guidelines, 2.) Address Solar in the Zoning Code and Adopt a Solar Ordinance, and 3.) Create a Permit Checklist.

He explained what it would take for a local government to implement these recommendations. Meister would provide handouts and best practices to share with the local stakeholders.

Mr. Laurent discussed each Best Management Practice and steps that should occur.

- Create a Permit Checklist.
  - The review of local regulations between commercial and residential permitting
  - The checklist data review between municipalities
- Address Solar in the Zoning Code and Adopt a Solar Ordinance
  - Establish as of right zoning procedures for small scale systems. Discussion on ways to implement this recommendation. Exempt restrictions tied to homeowners height requirements.
  - Setbacks and ground mounted systems
  - Establishing Special zoning districts
  - Updating zoning codes
  - New developments
  - They will provide a number of examples and model ordinances
- Develop Solar Ready Guidelines
  - Checklist for new construction
  - Additional handouts will be provided for local governments

Mr. Laurent explained that the workshops will focus on the top three Best Management Practices. It is their role to provide technical assistance to the local governments for a one to two day meeting. They will walk the stakeholders through a model ordinance process. The next steps involve implementation.

#### **Item #6 – Save the Date: Stakeholder Meeting**

Ms. Harp reminded the committee that the July 11<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders meeting will be held @ 10:00 a.m. at the SWFRPC office.

Ms. Dickens asked what this meeting was intended to cover.

Ms. Pellechio explained that during this Stakeholder meeting, the committee will confirm the top BMP's. The committee will also look towards how to implement the top BMP's. The consultant will provide checklists examples to assist with implementation for the region.

#### **Item #7 – Revised talking Points Handouts**

Ms. Harp explained that there are revised talking points handouts for SWFRPC located on the website and linked on the agenda.

#### **Item #8 – In-kind Services Contribution Form**

Ms. Harp explained that in-kind contributions needed to be captured for the grant requirements. She explained that for any additional research or work related to this project an in-kind form needed to be completed.

**Item #9 – Next Meeting Scheduled**

Ms. Harp gave out the next scheduled meeting date; however Ms. Pellechio commented that this date was changed. The next meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2014.

**Item #10 – [www.solarreadyflorida.com](http://www.solarreadyflorida.com)**

Ms. Harp noted to please visit the solarreadyflorida.com website for resources and meeting agendas.

**Item #11 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

DRAFT